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E-000113/2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.3.2026)

On 9 January 2026¹, on behalf of all Member States, the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) firmly condemned the use of violence, arbitrary detention and intimidation tactics by security forces, and expressed the solidarity with the Iranian people that voiced their legitimate aspirations for a better life, freedom and dignity. The HR/VP also called for the release of all those unjustly detained for exercising their human rights. The rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, as well as the right of access to information, are universal and binding obligations for Iran under international law.

The Council adopted new restrictive measures against perpetrators of serious human rights violations in the context of the recent nationwide protests, including prominent figures such as the Minister of the Interior², and reached a political agreement to list the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organisation under the Council Common Position on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism³.

The EU stands in full solidarity with the Iranian people that voice their legitimate aspirations for a better life, freedom and dignity. The EU commitment to human rights extends to the UN fora. The EU urges Iran to allow free and unhindered access to the country for UN mandate holders and to cooperate fully with the independent, international Fact-Finding Mission and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran. At the Special Session of the Human Rights Council on 23 January 2026, the EU strongly supported the work of UN mechanisms and the extension of their mandate. The EU is a strong supporter of the UN accountability mechanisms.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/01/09/iran-statement-by-the-hr-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-situation-in-the-country/>.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/01/29/iran-council-adopts-new-sanctions-over-serious-human-rights-violations-and-iran-s-continued-support-to-russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine/>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/compos/2001/931/oj/eng>.